

a receiver and associated recording means at each of said locations for recording said selected music selections;

a central controller system including a database for storing thereon a multitude of addresses, each of the locations being associated with one of said addresses;

a communications link between each of the customer locations and the central controller system to verify to the controller system when the selected music selections have been recorded; and

a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the customer locations for music selections that are recorded.

4. A system according to Claim 3, wherein said means to select desired music selections includes a graphical user interface.

5. A system according to Claim 4, wherein said graphical user interface includes means for identifying music selections by artist, title and category.

6. A system according to Claim 4, wherein the customer accesses the graphical user interface via a hand held remote.

7. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the data transmission system blanket transmits the music selections.

8. A system according to Claim 7, wherein the blanket transmission is via direct broadcast satellite.
9. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the user stations include a storage medium for initially storing the transmitted music selections.
10. A system according to Claim 9, wherein the user stations include means for the customers to preview the stored music selections at no charge, and thereafter to decide whether to purchase a permanent copy of the previewed music selections.
11. A system according to Claim 10, wherein the music selections that are previewed at no charge are hobbled in some way.
12. A system according to Claim 11, wherein the music selections that are previewed at no charge are hobbled with some simple distortion.
13. A system according to Claim 3, wherein when the customer decides to purchase a music selection, a graphical user interface prompts the customer to insert a recording medium into the user station.
14. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the customer locations are customer households.

15. A system according to Claim 3, wherein each user station includes a compact disc writer for recording, at the user station, the selected music selections.

16. A system according to Claim 3, further comprising anti-piracy means to identify the customer locations at which the recordings are made.

17. a system according to Claim 16, wherein the anti-piracy means includes means for weaving an identification tag into the recorded music.

18. A system according to Claim 3, wherein some of the customer locations are in geographically remote and/or in sparsely populated areas.

19. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the data transmission system also transmits digital program and pricing information.

20. A system according to Claim 19, wherein the programming and pricing information is stored in the user stations.

21. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the user station includes an Internet browser and processor that enables the customer to access the central controller system via a phone line or other Internet connection.

22. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the data transmission system includes cable, optical fiber, DSL, or the Internet.

23. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the billing system includes means to update music pricing at any time.

24. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the means to select desired music selections includes means to pre-select said desired music selections.

25. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the music selections are transmitted under authority of content providers, and the billing system includes means to credit the content providers for the recorded music selections.

26. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the data transmission system includes geostationary satellites.

27. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the music selections are transmitted in an encoded format.

28. A method for distributing music to customers, comprising:

transmitting a plurality of music selections;

the customers using a plurality of user stations at dispersed customer locations to select desired music selections for recording;

recording said selected music selections at the user stations;

providing a database at a central controller system to store a multitude of addresses, wherein each of said locations is associated with one of said addresses;

using a communication link between the customer locations and the central controller system to verify to the controller system when the selected music selection have been recorded; and

billing the customer locations for music selections that are recorded.

29. A method according to Claim 28, wherein each of the user stations is provided with a graphical user interface to help the customer select the desired music selections.

30. A method according to Claim 28, wherein the transmitting step includes the step of blanket transmitting the music selections.

31. A method according to Claim 28, wherein the recording step includes the step of allowing the customers to preview music selections at no charge and thereafter to decide whether to purchase a permanent copy of the previewed music selections.

32. A method according to Claim 31, wherein the music selections that are previewed at not charge are hobbled with some simple distortion.

33. A method according to Claim 28, wherein the customer locations are customer households.

34. A method according to Claim 28, wherein each user station includes a compact disc writer for recording, at the user station, the selected music selections.

35. A method according to Claim 28, further comprising the step of providing anti-piracy protection to identify the customer locations at which the recordings are made.

36. A method according to Claim 28, wherein some of the customer locations are in geographically remote and/or sparsely populated areas.

37. A method according to Claim 28, wherein the transmitting step includes the step of also transmitting digital program and pricing information.

38. A method according to Claim 28, wherein the customer locations are customer households.

39. A method according to Claim 28, wherein the billing step includes the step of updating music pricing at any time.

40. A method according to Claim 28, wherein the music selections are transmitted under authority of content providers, and the billing step includes the step of crediting the content providers for the recorded music selections.

41. A method according to Claim 28, wherein the transmitting step includes the step of transmitting the music selections from geostationary satellites.

42. A system for recording music, comprising:

a plurality of user stations at dispersed customer locations, each user station including means for receiving and recording transmitted music selections;

a central control system; and

a communications link between each of the user stations and the central control system to verify to the control system when selected music selections have been recorded; and

wherein the control system includes means to bill the customer locations for music selections that are recorded.

43. A system according to Claim 42, wherein each of the user stations includes a graphical user interface to help customers select music selections for recording.

44. A system according to Claim 43, wherein the graphical user interface includes means to identify music selections by artist, title and category.

45. A system according to Claim 42, wherein each of the user stations includes a storage medium for initially storing the transmitted music selections.

46. A system according to Claim 45, wherein each of the user stations includes means for the customer to preview the stored music selections at no charge, and thereafter to decide whether to purchase a permanent copy of the previewed music selections.

47. A system according to Claim 42, wherein when the customer decides to purchase a music selection, a graphical user interface prompts the customer to insert a recording medium into the user station.

48. A system according to Claim 42, wherein the customer locations are customer households.

49. A system according to Claim 42, wherein each user station includes a compact disc writer for recording the selected music selections.

50. A system according to Claim 42, wherein the control system includes a database for storing a multitude of addresses, each of said locations being associated with one of said addresses.